

**1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?**

I was an advisor with the United Nations Development Program, UNIFEM/UNWomen, OSCE and other international organizations on democratic governance, human rights and women's political participation.

**2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?**

I've lived in the riding for 7 years. We sold our house in August and are currently in the process of downsizing (in the riding).

**3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?**

I taught at Algonquin College, received the Leading Women award for my work empowering local women, and held a weekly coffee hour for 6 years.

**4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?**

When I was in elementary school, a teaching assistant gave me the Diary of Anne Frank to read. It had a profound impact on me, and led me to a lifetime of standing up for human rights and for those who are persecuted because of their identity, race, religion or beliefs.

**5. What previous politician (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?**

I will always admire Nelson Mandela. His courage in the face of the worst kind of persecution and discrimination, his strength and determination, and his ability, once he achieved power, to use it to bring reconciliation rather than retribution is an inspiration to the world.

**6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?**

The issue I hear about most often is the economy, especially the availability of good jobs and the cost of living. Even for those with full-time employment, there are concerns about how to make ends meet while raising kids and looking after aging parents. Our platform includes more affordable child care and before/after school care for families, universal pharmacare, homecare, mental health, and more supports for caregivers. We will also ensure that new Canadians and youth are prepared for today's economy through investments in education and jobs. And for those who contributed all their lives, increased pension security for seniors.

**7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?**

I believe government can be a force for good in society, and that we can do politics better. I have a track record of working collaboratively across party lines to pass policies that help make people's lives better. I am chairing an all-party Democracy Caucus to change the way Parliament works in order to make it less partisan. I hold a weekly coffee hour mini-town-hall to

listen to constituents and bring their ideas to Parliament. And I am making efforts to reach out to those who are often excluded, including those with disabilities, young people and lower income communities.